

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HIGHER EDUCATION

and

ENERGY COMMITTEE

of the

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Economic Development, Higher Education & Energy Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, November 15, 2006.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Legislator Wayne Horsley • Chairman
Legislator Rick Montano • Vice•Chair
Legislator Tom Barraga
Legislator Jon Cooper
Legislator Lynne Nowick

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

George Nolan • Counsel to the Legislature
Joe Schroeder • Budget Review Office
Joe Muncey • Budget Review Office
Richard Baker • Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Ben Zwirn • County Executive's Office
Carolyn Fahey • Economic Development

Charles Stein • Suffolk Community College
George Gatta • Suffolk Community College
James Morgo • Commissioner • Economic Development
All other interested parties

MINUTES TAKEN BY:

Donna Catalano • Court Stenographer

(* THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:10 P.M. *)

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Good afternoon, everybody. Welcome to the Economic Development, Higher Education and Higher Education (sic) Committee Meeting dated November 15th, 2006. And may we all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

SALUTATION

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And may we all take a moment of silence. It's my understanding we lost four more of our young boys today over in Iraq. May we just stand in a moment of silence.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Again, good afternoon. For those that may be here today that came to see former County Executive Bob Gaffney, unfortunately Bob is unable to make it today and will be here on December 13th. For those that didn't get any late notice, my apologies. All right. May I call up George Gatta who would like to speak a moment on the HVAC Program over at Suffolk Community.

MR. GATTA:

Good afternoon. George Gatta, Vice•President for our Workforce and

Economic Development at Suffolk Community College. Thank you for the opportunity. Just to give you a brief update on our discussions with Local 638, the Steamfitters Union, relative to the Capital Project for •• that would house both the laboratories for Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Program with the College as well as our manufacturing laboratory that we will be putting together as part of our federal grant to do manufacturing training for the Long Island region.

I did give you a brief update at the last meeting. Since then, I did have a discussion with Mr. Tourpie. He indicated last Monday that he thought we could resolve the issue of coming to an agreement on a Memorandum of Understanding relative to that building. I did receive a revised draft from him on Wednesday, which contained some language which would •• they requested that we limit our program to service and maintenance. I unfortunately could not •• the College could not agree to that stipulation since our curriculum is approved by the State Education Department and by the State University of New York. It is a broad•based technology program that prepares individuals to enter various aspects of that field. There are design elements in the curriculum, there are commercial systems •• elements within the curriculum, and we could not agree to that language. I have not heard back from Mr. Tourpie since last Wednesday. I will call him in the next few days to see if we now have language that they can agree to.

The point of the update is we're very hopeful that we can enter into an MOU. However, if in the next few weeks we are not able to come to agreement, then I will be communicating with the County Executive's Office regarding the possibility of requesting an amending •• an amended appropriating resolution for that facility. I believe we used our best efforts in discussing the issues. And wherever we could, we have provided language that gives comfort to Local 638. We are not an apprenticeship program, we are not a pre •• apprenticeship program, we don't advertise and will not advertise our programs as such. We are an educational institution offering educational programs that are technology based. And again, they prepare young men and women and many not so young men and women that come back to the college for retraining to enter that field in many, many different capacities.

We're proud of partnership that we've formed with the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island, and we're thankful for their support. But at the end of the day, we must deliver our State Education and SUNY approved curriculum as it has been approved and it's been in existence for about three years now. That's

the update. I will update you at the next meeting. Hopefully we'll have a resolution by then. In the mean time, I will continue to reach out to the Steamfitters to try to resolve the issue. And if you have •• if you have any questions relative to it, I'd be glad to respond.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Are there any questions from the Legislators? Did any other players weigh in on this in the recent weeks, or is it just between the two offices, your's and Mr. Tourpie's?

MR. GATTA:

I have kept Frank Nardelli informed, and I've copied him on correspondence. He's the County Executive's liaison to the business community. I have copied the Chair of the Committee. I have copied the Presiding Officer, and I've had discussions with Presiding Officer to keep him informed. I have reached out to Commission Dow several times to see if he would be interested in discussing the issue with any other union that might have an interest in working with us. So I've done a tremendous amount of outreach and tried to keep everyone informed. Hopefully, we can resolve this in this the next couple of weeks. I just •• you know, I hesitate to put this off too long, because it's an issue that we just really need get behind us so that we can focus on our job of providing the best educational program we can.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much.

MR. GATTA:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. I understand Gail Lolis of the County Attorney's Office would like to •• • Gail, there you are.

MS. LOLIS:

It's not necessary. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

All right. Glad we cleared that up. Kevin Rooney of the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island.

MR. ROONEY:

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Kevin Rooney. I represent the Oil Heat Institute of Long Island. On Monday morning, I spoke before the Environment and Planning and Agriculture Committee in support of the nomination of Ms. Carrie Meek•Gallagher to be Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Energy replacing Mike Deering. While EPA may be the committee of primary jurisdiction, some thoughts on this nomination are appropriate before this committee given that energy and economic development issues fall clearly with your purview.

From the outset, we supported the creation of this department based on our firm belief that land use preservation and environmental issues on the one hand and energy use supply infrastructure and economic development issues on the other hand are not mutually exclusive, but rather are inextricably intertwined and interdependent. And further, we felt that this new department offered the best opportunity for Suffolk County Government to address these complex interrelated issues in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

Our concern is that some view this department as being one to address real estate and environmental issues only. If such occurs, it would amount to a loss of an opportunity to address both our energy and environmental issues together. According to the Oxford Dictionary, symbiosis is defined as quote the interaction between two different organisms living in close physical association, especially to the advantage of both, end quote.

Symbiotic relationships between energy and environmental issues are what this department should be all about. We strongly urge your support of Ms. Gallagher's nomination as Commissioner, and we are enthusiastic about her nomination. But we would also strongly urge this committee to remind her of the dual and equal responsibilities to both energy of environmental issues of her new department. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. Rooney. Any questions of Mr. Rooney? And we always enjoy symbiosis. Okay. Are there any further •• anyone else like to be heard? That being the case, may I ask Mr. Morgo to step forward? Speaking of symbiotic relationships.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Good afternoon. I would like to address you this afternoon on Introductory Resolution 2281, and that's the allocation of the downtown revitalization funds under Phase VI. I think you are all aware that this is the second year that your Citizens Downtown Advisory Panel have made the suggested recommendations to you based on merit. There were six criteria, and the applicants •• the applications and the projects were judged based on these six criteria. They were •• under this Phase VI, this Round VI, if you will, there was \$530,000 available; 500,000 that you allocated and 30,000 of recaptured money.

There were 16 applications recommended to you and which you have as part of the resolution. One of the •• one criterion among the six criteria is leveraging funds, and that is if the grant award would be able to put other funds, and I emphasize private as well public funds, into the project. Of the 16 applications recommended for funding for the 530,000, almost an additional million•five, a million and a half dollars, were leveraged of both private money, private money from financial institutions under the Community Reinvestment Act •• Investments and from other public sources; state, federal, and the local municipality. So that's the 530 recommended, almost another mill and a half.

Because the deliberations are comprehensive and deliberative by the members of the Downtown Revitalization Panel, remember each of you nominates someone from his or her district, and they meet regularly and they do a thorough analysis of the applications submitted. Last year, we began the process of bringing representatives to you to answer your questions or to present what they thought of this round, this Round VI. And we have three representatives of the 19 members of the panel today. And I'm going to ask them to come up and take Carolyn and my place up here. And then we'll be available for questions •• all five of us will be available for questions.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much, Mr. Morgo. And let me just add that I •• Jim and I had spoke about this issue, that there were some questions that came up in the •• in the budget process concerning the Revitalization Program. And I wanted to offer the Legislature, at least this committee, an opportunity to discuss it, understand it further, because there were questions, and we should be upfront about this. And this may •• this may help in moving the program forward.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Terrific. So let me just give you know, though, on my right is Susan { Von Freighty} , she is from the 1st District •• okay. She is from Jay Schneiderman's district. I have Michael {Mott} on my left who is from Legislator Vilorio•Fisher's District, which it says is the 5th, and Michael {Poveromo} . Mike is from District 6, from Legislator Losquadro's district. So who is going to speak?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Would you like to •• any of our august Legislators like to ask a question? I'm catching you guys all off guard, I know that.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Just give me an example of some of the details of a given project. Can anybody tell me •• you know, just for my own benefit •• East Islip Main Street Restoration Project, you're going to spend \$73,000 there. What is that project? What are the details of it? What are they going to do with the money?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Would any of you like to answer? I have it here.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I don't care.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

There will be street lights.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Street lights.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Pavers, sidewalk improvements, planters and trees.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Is it mainly street lights?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

I don't know if it's •• is it mainly street lights?

LEG. BARRAGA:

What does a street light cost, purchase and installation? Are these historical street lights that are every 50 or 75 feet?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

You want to answer it, Carolyn? Go ahead.

MS. FAHEY:

The street lights vary in cost. But each application was to submit estimated costs for the type of lights that they want for the distance apart and according to town zoning. So for this particular project, I don't know what each light cost, but they did vary from project to project, whether or not they were trying to replace existing street scape or not. So each project would be different.

LEG. BARRAGA:

So these lights are normally, like, for aesthetic purposes, giving that historical ambiance associated with the hamlet?

MS. FAHEY:

In some districts, yes. And in some districts, it was safety issues and lighting issues.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Safety issues?

MS. FAHEY:

In some districts.

LEG. BARRAGA:

In this district?

MS. FAHEY:

In some districts. I don't believe •• I don't know about this district in particular.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Do you think this is a worthwhile venture to spend 73,000 mainly on historical aesthetic lighting when people are basically having a tough time making ends meet out here?

MR. { MOTT} :

I mean, I had similar questions about that. And at the beginning we did a lot of •• a lot of street lighting. Those were the applications that came to us. And we moved a little bit away from that to larger projects, but we have experience with street lighting. And over the year, and I've been on the committee since its inception, we have seen that it's not just street lighting in and of itself, but it's sidewalks and pavers. And it's an attempt to spend money in these communities to make the downtown both assessable and attractive and safe. If it's not safe and it's not assessable, then the businesses in these communities have a very difficult time competing with the enormous changes that have occurred in the last several years with the development of large box stores and larger malls along the highway. So it has multiple positive affects.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I mean, I certainly can understand rationalizing anything. You know, I've seem some of these historic lights in different hamlets, and in between the historic lights are high sodium vapor lights. I mean, the place is lit up like a Christmas tree.

MR. { MOTT} :

You could say that it might in some instances signify a lot of wiring with no real illumination on the problem. I think that's what you're getting at.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I mean, it looks nice, but is it really in any way, shape or form necessary that you spend 73,000 on this type of project?

MR. { MOTT} :

I would suggest that the Legislature might consider looking at the projects that have been funded over the years since the development of this project and have a real analyst look at it and see if we they can't determine what affects the various funded projects had have overall on either increasing or maintaining prosperity in our downtowns. I would certainly like to know that.

LEG. BARRAGA:

We're increasing taxes. I know the 73,000 has to be paid by somebody.

MR. { MOTT} :

Well, not all of it comes •• for the project comes from the County. Some of it comes from other sources, and we look at that very carefully.

LEG. BARRAGA:

What sources?

MR. { MOTT} :

Federal sources, Chamber of Commerce, local commitment, in some cases, there are donations from, you know, Chambers of Commerces. They do their own fundraising.

LEG. BARRAGA:

Jim, I don't want to belabor it, but, you know, when you say federal sources, that's usually federal tax dollars. That's me. Chamber of Commerce, it could be a grant that came from this level of government or some other level of government to the Chamber of Commerce, all right, that's being spent on this kind of a project. All I'm saying is that it's •• it's the project in and of itself. Like, sometimes I look at these things and I wonder why, you know, why we have to spend this kind of money. If it was a dark area and it served some purpose, but most of the time these historic lights are interspersed between high sodium vapor lights. The hamlet is already lit up like a Christmas tree. You kind of wonder, you know, are these long term affects, positive effects, are more people going to go down there because of this lighting. I'm not so sure I buy into that.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

First of all, to answer your specific question, the other sources also include private sector sources that are not coming from taxpayer money. I mentioned previously, Legislator, through the Community Reinvestment Act, through other straight investments from the financial institutions, from banks. Secondly though, which is more to your point, it really is the question, and I'm sure you understand this, of investment. And it's not just this program, but the use of public dollars to stimulate economic development is really an investment. And the key question is we're talking about benefits through the Industrial Development Agency or through the Empire Zone, does this money cause more money to come in for our local taxes for ••

LEG. BARRAGA:

Jim, just one final comment. I'm not adverse to spending 73,000 in East Islip, but the question is, you know, if there was, like, seven or eight different projects in East Islip would you pick this one? Isn't there something else that would economic ••

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Well, that's the question. This is •• number one, this is the application that came in. And number two, there are seven criteria that the panel, and I in truth didn't go to panel meetings this year as I did last year, but I saw last year, and I'm presuming through Carolyn and the other folks from my department who are there that the panel did a very analytical criterion by criterion analysis. And one •• one of the criterion is provides economic benefit. In other words, by doing this, are you causing more of the folks to come downtown to spend their money in local stores that are owned by local people that go to local services like •• talking about tax dollars •• like our school districts and to generate sales tax. That's the whole concept behind the program. And one of the major changes was that the program is no longer paying for decorative things, which there's nothing wrong with decorative things, I'm all for flower boxes, but there's •• this is •• this is more this year now. It's going to things that will directly, number one, stimulate the economy, and number two, leverage other. That's why I mentioned the million and a half dollars.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I see your point, but there are some who might say that this lighting is also decorative in nature, making it more appealing, nicer, historical to come down to the hamlet.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

Well, it's both. And you know, that doesn't hurt the economy.

LEG. BARRAGA:

I think it's a hard sell for a hard pressed taxpayer to buy into this sort of expense.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

But if it's getting more for the local school district, I mean, that's really •• it's really •• it's the question of all economic development. They're all based on the same idea.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. May I just •• and I don't want to belabor this point, but I spent the better part of my life working in villages that brought down things like these decorative lights, flower boxes that fed •• that fed into each other, that brought the community together. Case in point, and I used to Chair the Babylon Beautification Society for six years, and we started this is a private organization and the village jumped in a little bit later on and joined us a team effort, much as Suffolk County is joining team effort in our beautifying efforts. And that village could have gone either way in the early '70s, a lot of empty story fronts. And now it is truly one the most beautiful villages on the South Shore. And I think it is because of these types of actions. So as much as I respect me colleagues comments, there are differing opinions on this issue.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

You might say there's a symbiotic relationship between those things and the economy.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Tom lives next to •• joins my district, and maybe he •• you know, maybe he can take a look at some of those •• those issues. But a lot of it was private monies.

MS. { VON FREIGHTY} :

I'm Susan { Von Freighty} , and I'm from Southampton Township, Jay Schneiderman's district. And I will •• I will piggy back on your comments, because ten years ago, our little community was falling apart. We had vacant stores, we had three grocery stores that had gone out of business. And we were •• we were at a cross road. And it was either do something now or we're going to lose our downtown, because as many downtowns have had happen to them, is the big stores and the surrounding areas outside of the downtown village area have taken over; the big grocery stores, the big box stores. We didn't have any big box stores, but we had development going outside of town.

And we made a decision, a group of eight people in a room with a barking dog that something needed to be done. Now, today, ten years later, we have totally revamped our community with not only the help of the County, the state, the township and a tremendous support from private donations, from local people who now have a tremendously beautiful new Main Street. We

have such pride in your community. We get people, private people, throwing money at us to help keep our Main Street looking strong.

One of the things that is •• after you do something very nice for your community and decorate it and put lights and benches and flowers and all of these nice things, it brings new businesses into the community. And when those new businesses come into the community, they support the community and there are more place for people to shop. They don't have to go out of town to get what they need on a daily basis.

And what has happened is that not only were we able to raise a tremendous amount of money, but we also have helped our township, because we as an organization, which is now 1000 people strong, and I'm telling you we started with eight people, we are now 1000 members strong, which donate us •• to us every year a membership fee to keep us going, and we are constantly getting not only from the locals, but from the people from New York City that come out and vacation and have second homes in our area are always sending us funds to help us.

What has happened is that we now have a beautiful town. We are in the process of planning a beautiful park for all the citizens. And we are very, very proud of our community, and it shows. And without •• without these little extras, the hanging flower baskets in the summer, and in the wintertime, the committee •• and these are all volunteers that are working. These are not paid people. There is not one person in our organizations that gets a paid a salary, a stipend. We get paid nothing. It is purely volunteerism. And we're proud of it, we love our little group, and we have become friends. We work together, and we have made a tremendous impact on our community. And basically, that's all I wanted to say.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Thank you very much. Legislator Cooper.

LEG. NOWICK:

Actually, it's probably not necessary anyway and I'm sorry to jump on you, Legislator Barraga, but I have to •• just to give you the two different scenarios, the two different personalities, maybe •• I don't even know if it's • you know, it's the black and white and it's color. But I'm going to say as a woman, I know that there are times when my daughters are sitting around and they're saying, well, what can we do. By the way, they're 26, 27, they

have a lot of disposable income, because they live with me free. And you'll appreciate this. The other day I found myself saying, "Why don't you go down to Huntington proper, it's so pretty to walk around. There's so many stores and little restaurants. Go spend the evening walking around." And they come equipped with their credit cards. And when stores know that there are people walking around with credit cards, more stores come in.

And so if it is a flower pot or somebody will water the flowers or if it is something that is going to be maybe a little bit more frills than we think we should have, I believe there is a reason for it. And I've seen it. How many times do you say, "Let's take a walk around Stony Brook, let's go have ice cream"? Because it's charming. That's where people spend money. So that is economic development, and I have to agree, in Southampton and many other towns.

MS. { VON FREIGHTY} :

Thank you very much.

LEG. NOWICK:

For that reason, I have to go along with you here.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Cooper.

LEG. COOPER:

I think we're all in agreement on this. And the point that Legislator Barraga made is a valid one, we do have to make sure that these expenditures are appropriate. But I was going to make the same point about Huntington Village that Legislator Nowick just made. My two older kids, my son now is in college, so he's not home that much, but daughter who is 17 going on 18, where does she hang out now but it's Huntington Village. And she doesn't have a credit card yet, but she had money that she borrows from me, and she spends it in Huntington Village.

LEG. VILORIA • FISHER:

Borrows?

LEG. COOPER:

And they wouldn't have done that just a few years ago. But it's gone through a tremendous revitalization. And it has been the planters and the brick

pavers and the historical street lighting. But it's changed the entire ambiance of downtown. And they are expanding it continually. And it's mostly private funds, it's mostly funds that the Huntington Village raised on their own, some from the town, a smaller portion from the County. But they're really pulling themselves up by their own boot straps. And it's made a tremendous difference. I mean, that is now •• it was always vibrant, but even more so now. It's a vibrant community. I'm absolutely certain it has had a real positive impact on local business and increasing the tax base.

And actually now that same revitalization is being extended to Huntington Station, which is a much more challenged area. And they're thrilled, because now they're talking about putting in brick pavers and the antique lighting. And we're going to try to pull the whole community together from Huntington Village down south to Huntington Station. And I'm hoping that we'll •• I'm sure that we'll see the same benefits accrue in the Station that we've seen in the Village. But if you speak to the shop owners there and if you speak to the people from not just Huntington, but even beyond who shop in Huntington, they'll absolutely attest that it's made a real positive difference. So we do have to make sure that appropriate expenditures, as Legislator Barraga said, but I think that they're absolutely worthwhile. It's a great program, and I wish it could be expanded.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Legislator Montano.

LEG. MONTANO:

Good afternoon. Hi, Jim. I was just going to ask with respect to the East Islip Main Street Restoration Project, those are town or County roads that we're •• that's a town road, right, East Islip, Main Street?

MS. FAHEY:

It's a State Road.

LEG. MONTANO:

State Road. And generally there's a match from the town. I know we did this in Brentwood. There was a \$50,000 allocation to put in the pavers and the lighting on Brentwood Road, and the town matched that. I think it was 50 and 50. Is there a similar match here in terms of the grant?

MS. FAHEY:

It doesn't delineate here, but I know that the town was coming in with some CBD •• some community development block grant money. The town was coming in with some of that funding and so on, but it doesn't tell me exactly who's getting what.

LEG. MONTANO:

It doesn't say if it's dollar for dollar.

MS. FAHEY:

No.

LEG. ROMAINE:

Okay.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

The thing Rick, as leveraging is a criterion, so there would have to be the local match, it would have to be in there. I was just going to add, because I'm glad that Legislator Barraga raised the question if it is, in fact, money well spent and what kind of return do you get on your investment. It's not just for this program, it's one of the things I look at frequently here in the use of public money. We in the administration obviously take that very seriously.

Echoing what everyone said, but adding one more thing, and I think Legislator Cooper eluded to this, unlike so much of our retail, that is national retailers, the folks in the downtowns are usually folks from the community. And when Jon said you meet with the folks from the shops and you know, this kind of thing is an enhancement. And we do have a multiplier affect here. This money does generate •• what Mike said at the beginning about maybe there should be some kind of study to measure it, I think you'd see that when a dollar is spent in a local retailer, the mom and pop, rather than a national retailer, you'd see something like •• and I saw the statistic recently •
• 40 more percent of that dollar, 40 cents more of that dollar, stays in the local community. You know, so I think that's •• particularly in the downtowns where we have few national retailers.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right. And we had worked closely •• there's a •• last year, the Ross Memorial Park got a \$96,000 grant, and that's moving along very well in

addition to the other money that's coming in from the town and from the state.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

And I know your local Citibank branch is also contributing.

LEG. MONTANO:

Right.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

And that's private money.

LEG. MONTANO:

And we also allocated this year in the Capital Budget \$200,000 for the pavers and the lighting on Suffolk Avenue right near •• right down the road from Ross Memorial. And I was there at lunch picking up my shoes at the shoemaker, and I saw the lights •• you know, part of it that's going up. It's actually very decorative, very nice. And it serves •• you know, it does serve a purpose in terms of making it more convenient. I'd like to see that park, you know, come along. I think they're going to start construction there in spring. And, you know, it's worked out very well. With respect to the •• there's another one here, the Huntington •• Town of Huntington Economic Development Corporation. Is that a town agency or is that a not for profit?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

That's a private •• it's a local development corporation. It's an LDC.

LEG. MONTANO:

LDC. All right. Thanks, Jim. I thank all of you.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Are there any recommendations you can make to us as Legislators as to how do we go about and win some of these grants?

MS. { VON FREIGHTY } :

Very good idea. I think it's very important •• first of all, I just wanted to mention that two•thirds of all Legislative Districts received money this year, and they were all very good projects. I think it's your job to go back to your communities and let people know that this grant is available. And also, we had several people •• what was the town that asked us to come and speak to

them? Where did we go last year?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

We went to Brentwood.

MS. FAHEY:

The panel decided to go out and start seeing ••

MS. { VON FREIGHTY} :

Seeing different areas that wanted help. I think Brentwood.

MS. FAHEY:

Brentwood, right.

MS. { VON FREIGHTY} :

Brentwood was one of communities that we went •• several members went of the panel went to Brentwood and answered the questions and told them how to do this. So we do •• we do reach out and we do ask people, you know, what is that you need. If you don't know how to do this, we're here to help you. Carolyn is always available to help different organizations. And, of course, your areas, we don't know your area. I mean, I know my area, I don't know your area. So I don't know what is needed. So when you go back to your own Legislative areas, look around and see what needs to be done, or perhaps you could make a suggestion. You know, a lot of the grants are applied for by Chambers of Commerces, and, you know, that's the local business community, but it doesn't have to just be the Chamber of Commerce.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

One of the things, Legislator, that Carolyn in the eastern towns and Lisa Ann Broughton in the western towns will do, they'll go to a Legislator's office. If he or she wants to bring in a local chamber, a local bid, a local civic, either one of them will sit down and go over the application process and explain each of the seven criteria and really help with the application, right?

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

That's great. You know, that's what I wanted to know. You know, how do we improve your chances?

MS. { VON FREIGHTY} :

How do you improve your chances? Then perhaps you'll give us more money to give everybody more money.

MR. { MOTT} :

I'd just like to add to that. To make sure that each Legislative District does send a representative to this panel and make sure that they are active participants in it. That way you'll have a much better opportunity of making sure that those projects that are near and dear to you in your district that will aid the community that you represent will have a much better opportunity of getting some funds out of this. And by increasing the amount of funds that you give, that broadens the pot for all. And it encourages, I would think, more applications.

MS. { VON FREIGHTY} :

I would like to just mention, thank you all for giving the panel permanency. We appreciate it. You know, we spend a lot of time and energy and effort learning about the different communities. And when the representative from your Legislative District explains to us about the community that they live in and the projects that are going on there, as I said, we don't •• we don't have the eyes, they do. And their insight into these projects helps us make a determination whether it is a project of merit.

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

One of things that Michael is telling me, the reps, and I remember from last year, all the reps don't show up all the time.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Ms. Nowick.

LEG. NOWICK:

Is it possible for us to get some type of a •• I don't want to say attendance, that's belittling •• but some type of a record?

COMMISSIONER MORGO:

The minutes. We can get you the minutes. The minutes shows who is there.

MS. FAHEY:

We do have a data base showing who attends which meeting. I mean, that's easy enough to share.

LEG. NOWICK:

Just a quick data base showing maybe for the last 12 months who attended from what districts, because we may not even know if our representatives are attending. If you could get that to us, I'd appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Okay. Thank you very much for your input and taking time out to come join us today.

LEG. NOWICK:

And your enthusiasm.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

And your enthusiasm, I agree. All right. Okay. We'll now move to the agenda, first starting with tabled •• with the tabled agenda.

2090, To impose moratorium on aviation related construction at Francis S. Gabreski Airport pending Master Plan adoption.

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to table by Legislator Cooper.

LEG. MONTANO:

I'll second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? So moved **TABLED (VOTE:5•0•0•0).**

M031, Memorializing resolution in support of replacing LIPA'S appointed Board of Trustees.

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to table.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to table by Legislator Cooper.

LEG. MONTANO:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Montano All in favor? So moved. **Tabled (VOTE:5•0•0•0).**

2253, Accepting and appropriating an amendment to the College Budget for a grant award from the State University of New York for an Educational Opportunity Program 75% reimbursed by State funds at Suffolk County Community College.

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Cooper, seconded Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5•0•0•0).**

2256, Accepting and appropriating a grant proposal to the United States Department of Labor • Employment Training Administration (DOL•ETA) for a Long Island Mechatronics High Growth Job Training Initiatives (HGJTI) 100% reimbursed by Federal funds at Suffolk County Community College.

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to approve and put on the Consent Calender.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Montano. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **Approved** and placed on the **Consent Calender (VOTE:5•0•0•0).**

2277, Amending the 2006 Capital Budget and Program and appropriating funds for aviation utility infrastructure at Francis S. Gabreski Airport (CP 5734).

LEG. COOPER:

Motion to approve.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Cooper, seconded by Legislator Barraga. All in favor? Opposed? **Approved (VOTE:5•0•0•0).**

2281, Allocating downtown revitalization funds (VI) and appropriating the 2006 Downtown Revitalization Funds in connection with the Suffolk County Downtown Revitalization Program (CP 6412).

LEG. MONTANO:

Motion.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Motion to approve by Legislator Montano, seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5•0•0•0).**

LEG. COOPER:

And for the record, it's Phase IV. Those Roman Numerals are tricky.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

It's VI.

LEG. COOPER:

Who typed this up? Okay.

M.073. Memorializing resolution in support of regulating the emission of carbon dioxide by electric generating facilities.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I'll make that motion.

LEG. COOPER:

Second.

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

Seconded by Legislator Cooper. All in favor? Opposed? So moved. **APPROVED (VOTE:5•0•0•0).**

CHAIRMAN HORSLEY:

I believe that concludes our business today. And again, former County

Executive Bob Gaffney will be here on the 13th of December. Thanks. Bye.

(*THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:51 P.M.*)

{ } DENOTES BEING SPELLED PHONETICALLY